



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 15, 2004 Signature: [Signature]

(Reza Mollaaghababa)

2157-41
Docket No.: 102689-0045
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Darryl Black et al.

Application No.: 09/637,800

Art Unit: 2157

Filed: August 11, 2000

Examiner: S. Halim

For: PROCESSING NETWORK MANAGEMENT
DATA IN ACCORDANCE WITH METADATA
FILES

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2004

Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action issued on March 15, 2004, Applicants provide the following remarks. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

A listing of claims begins on Page 2.

Remarks begin on Page 7.